

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 15 as follows:

FIG. 4 shows a simulated comparison between a “classic” resonator (upper curve) and the novel “sweet spot” resonator according to FIB. 2b (lower curve). As seen in FIG. 4, the “sweet spot” resonator not only has an approximately constant focus diameter, whereas the focus diameter of the “classic” resonator increases with increasing pump power and therefore also with increasing thermal lensing effect; moreover, the focus diameter is significantly smaller across the entire range. FIG. 4 shows that the focus diameter changes from about 0.55 mm at about 0.04 kW power, to about 0.60 at about 1 kW power, and then to about 0.56 mm at about 2 kW power. This results in a change of focus diameter of less than 9.1% over a range of at least 1 kW. The calculated results are supported by the measurements shown in FIG. 5 (1 “state-of-the-art” rod, 4 different rods of the “sweet spot” resonator according to the invention). The measurements were taken with a CCD camera; other data are: focusing lens with $f = 116$ mm, $P_{\max} = 1.5$ kW and a distance from the focusing lens to the end of the rod = 450 mm.